IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kenichi NAKABAYASHI et al.

Serial No. NEW : Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH

Filed November 19, 2003 : Attorney Docket No. 2003 1640A

ARTICLES SEPARATING AND SUPPLYING APPARATUS AND METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THÉ COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or [] the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) [] the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or
- (2) [] the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.
- 1c. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

- 2. It is hereby certified
 - a. [] that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure

 Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a

 counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of
 the Statement, or
 - b. [] that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.
- 3. [] Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
- 4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
 - a. [] a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

- b. [] a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
- c. [] the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. [X] the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. [] the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
- 5. [] A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenichi NAKABAYASHI et al.

Deffrey R. Frlipel

Registration No. 41,471 Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs

Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 November 19, 2003

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)						SERIAL NEW	SERIAL NO. NEW			
				APPLICANT Kenichi NAKABAYASHI et al.						
(Use several sheets if necessary) Date Submitted to PTO: November 19, 2003				FILING DATE November 19, 2003			GROUP			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS										
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CI	LASS	SUBCLASS	LASS FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS										
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CI	LASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO		
	AJ	10-264901	10-6-98	Japan		,		abstract		
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OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)										
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